

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6066

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR SP

SUBJECT: FRENCH/SPANISH RELATIONS

REF: MADRID 132

SUMMARY: GOF CANNOT SATISFY SPAIN REGARDING BASQUE TERRORISTS,
BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE STRAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE GLADE JAN 12
PLAYED DOWN, TO EMBOFF, IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT DIFFERENCES
WITH SPAIN. HE CONFIRMED REFTEL INFO THAT SPANISH PROTEST
NOTE HAD BEEN MILD IN TONE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO
REQUESTS FOR EXTRADITION. HE SAID PROTEST NOTE WAS LENGTHY
REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SPANISH REQUESTS FOR GOF ACTION TO CURB
TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES OF BASQUE ORGANIZATION ETA. IT
CONCLUDED WITH INSISTENCE THAT, THIS TIME, EFFECTIVE MEASURES
BE TAKEN BY FRENCH, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ENORMITY OF
CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION.

2. GELADE ADMITTED THAT GOF WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY
SPAIN'S DEMANDS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE EXTRADITION TO SPAIN
NOT PRACTICABLE UNDER TERMS OF SPANISH-FRENCH CONVENTION
SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDING EXTRADITION FOR POLITICAL CRIME.
HE SAID ETA MEMBERS WANTED BY SPAIN HAVE POLITICAL
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REFUGEE STATUS AND FRENCH COURTS IN EARLIER CASES HAVE

RULED THAT EVEN WHEN GOS PRODUCES REASONABLE CASE AGAINST THEM, THEY ARE NOT EXTRADITABLE IF CRIME WAS POLITICALLY-ORIENTED. IN PRESENT INSTANCE MADRID HAS NOT PROVIDED ANY PROOF AGAINST ANY OF THE SIX BASQUES WHOM THEY CITED TO PARIS AS HAVING "PARTICIPATED IN ORGANIZING" CARREROS MURDER. FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH HANDLES THIS MATTER, HAS DETERMINED THAT TWO OF THE SIX WERE DEFINITELY NOT INVOLVED; ONLY THREE WERE REFUGEES RESIDENT IN FRANCE, ONE WAS IN BELGIUM AND OTHER TWO ARE UNKNOWN.

3. GELADE SAID INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH HAS ACTED MORE OR LESS ZEALOUSLY, ASSIGNED IDENTIFIABLE SUSPECTS TO "RESIDENCE SURVEILLER" IN NORTHERN FRANCE, WHICH WAS ONLY MEASURE AVAILABLE TO IT. INTERIOR MINISTRY WILL FOLLOW-UP, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT THESE SUSPECTS FROM RETURNING TO BASQUE COUNTRY NOR TO CURB SENSATIONAL FRENCH PRESS WHICH ENCOURAGES ETA BY PHOTOGRAPHING AND REPORTING THESE AND OTHER ACTS OF BASQUE DEFIANCE.

4. COMMENT: WITHIN LIMITS, FRANCE WILL CONSCIENTIOUSLY CARRY OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS TOWARD FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR FOLLOWING CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION WHICH IT STRONGLY DEPLORES. LIMITS ARE SET ON ONE HAND BY JURIDICAL SITUATION NOTED ABOVE AND ON OTHER HAND BY POLITICAL REALITIES OF FRANCE WHICH INCLUDE INTER ALIA WIDESPREAD POPULAR DISDAIN FOR FRANCO REGIME AND SIZEABLE BASQUE VOTING POPULATION WHICH SUPPORT ETAS AIMS IF NOT ITS METHODS.
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